

*Serial No. 10/691,856
Amendment dated Dec. 8, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Sept. 12, 2005*

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 2, 6, 9, 11 and 15 are amended and claims 1 and 20 are canceled.
Pages 1, 2 and 8 of the specification are amended.

Claims 2, 6, 9, 11, 15 and 18 are now the pending independent claims. Please charge deposit account 13-2725 the amount of \$600.00 for three independent claims over those previously paid for.

Claims 2-19 are pending. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Restriction

Applicants affirm election of Group I, claims 1-19. Claim 20, drawn to a non-elected invention, has been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claim 20 in a divisional application.

Specification

Applicants acknowledge that material, from unpublished U.S. applications and foreign publications, that is relied upon to overcome an objection, rejection or other requirement imposed by the PTO, is to be added to the disclosure rather than incorporated by reference.

Applicants contend that no material from any unpublished U.S. application or foreign publication, which is not already literally in the specification, is relied upon. Nevertheless, pages 1, 2 and 8 of the specification have been amended. Applicants have not amended the reference to the foreign publications on pages 1-2 nor on page 14.

Allowed Claims

Claims 2-17 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Each of claims 2, 6, 9, 11 and 15 has been written in independent form. Claims 2-17 are now allowable.

Claims 18 and 19 were indicated as allowed.

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Claim Rejections

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Edwards et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,955,996. To facilitate allowance of any claims, claim 1 has been canceled. Applicants do not acquiesce to the properness of the rejection of claim 1, and reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claim 1 in a continuation application.

Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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Mara E. DeBoe
Reg. No. 40,066

